(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) Whether Government of India propose to take up this issue with Bangladesh Government ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c) The Government has received reports that the T.N.V. extremists have training facilities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh and has brought this to the attention of the Government of Bangladesh to take action to prevent such activities.

The Government of Bangladesh, have denied the existence of such facilities on their territory. Government is however, persuing the matter further with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh.

'Sham marriages' between Indian and US Citizens

2688. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that US immigration officials have requested the Government of India to cooperate in the matter of stopping 'sham marriages' between Indian and US citizens for the purpose of obtaining lawful permanent resident status in the United States;

(b) the number of Indians involved in such 'sham marriages'; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been instituted in the matter; if so, with what result ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Government are aware of some marriages between Indian and US citizens for the purpose of obtaining resident status in the United States. Investigations into the various aspects of this matter are under way.

PERA violations by big fishing companies

2689. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined some recent instances of FERA voilations by big fishing companies who had received chartering permission from the Ministry of Agriculture; and

(b) whether the Finance Ministry proposes to take up the issue in regard to FERA violations by large charter fishing companies with the Ministry of Agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) No instance of FERA violations by big fishing companies has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Central assistance for the Umiam Lake project in Meghalaya

2690. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount sanctioned by the Central Government for the Umiam Lake project in Meghalaya; and

(b) what facilities are proposed to be provided by this project to attract greater number of tourists from home and abroad ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 28.99 lakhs has been sanctioned for provision of water sports equipment at Umiam Lake, Meghalaya. The equipment includes high-speed cruising boats, water skiing boats, canoes, rowing boats, water scooters, sailing yachts, paddle wheelers, pontoon and floating sports deck, as also skiing, cruising and fishing equipments.

Package tours for people from weaker sections of the society

2691. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to introduce package tours for people from the Weaker Sections of the Society to different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?